

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

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31 1. (currently amended) A supporting and fastening arrangement for contact wires comprising a ~~preferably~~ one-piece elongate support portion (28, 84) which can be fixed by means of suitable fastening means (42, 64, 86) to as mast, a pipe, or a house wall ~~or the like~~, and a coupling element (12, 52, 64, 86; 130, 138) for connecting the support portion (28) to a bracing tube ~~or the like~~, wherein the support portion (28) has a ~~preferably~~ central first opening and/or recess (38) which is provided to co-operate with a matching connecting portion (36, 132) of the coupling element and which is adapted to make a connection which can be plugged in and released and which is secured in respect of rotation and which is fixed when placed under a tensile and/or pressure loading, and wherein the coupling element has a pivot portion fitted thereto and connected to a counterpart fork coupling element which is adapted for connecting to a bracing tube.

2. (currently amended) An arrangement as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the support portion has a ~~profile~~ cross section which at least in a portion-wise manner is of a double-T-shaped configuration and which has on both sides of a front (46) and a rearward (48) longitudinal slot a pair of side portions (50) with an edge configuration which is rounded in the direction in which the longitudinal slots (46, 48) extend.

3. (currently amended) An arrangement as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that at the end, at least at one end, the support portion has a slot (42) forming a second opening which is disposed in the plane of the first opening (38).

4. (currently amended) An arrangement as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that in the region of the first opening the support portion has a recess which preferably extends perpendicularly to the direction in which the support portion extends and which is such that in a condition of connection to the coupling element a portion of the coupling element engages into the recess and additionally fixes the coupling element.

131 Cont  
5. (currently amended) An arrangement as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the coupling element is in the form of a receiving holder (12) for the support portion (28) and has a receiving portion (16) for insertion and positively locking retention of the support portion and a pivot portion (14) fitted thereto, for connection to a counterpart coupling portion (10).

6. (original) An arrangement as set forth in claim 5 characterised in that the receiving portion and the pivot portion are in one piece.

7. (currently amended) An arrangement as set forth in claim 5 characterised in that the coupling element is in the form of a yoke-shaped holder (52) which to provide the receiving portion embraces the support portion (28) in a U-shape in the region of the first opening and is adapted to provide the pivot portion for receiving a rotary pivot part (20) the coupling element counterpart fork at open leg ends (58) of the holder (52).

8. (currently amended) An arrangement as set forth in claim 1 characterised by a U-shaped fork element (64) which is such that, with a central connecting portion (89), it can be fitted non-rotatably into longitudinal slots (46, 48) of the support portion (28) and can also be fixed by means of a sleeve element (70) to a tube end.

9. (currently amended) An arrangement as set forth in claim 8 characterised in that free legs (90) of the fork element (64) are of such dimensions that in an assembled condition they project through the first opening (38) and/or the longitudinal slots and non-rotatably fix the fork element when under a tensile loading relative to the support portion (28).

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10. (currently amended) An arrangement as set forth in claim 1 characterised by a bar element (86) which is such that it can be non-rotatably fitted into longitudinal slots (46, 48) of the support portion (28) and can also be fixed by means of a sleeve element (70) to a tube end.

11. (currently amended) An arrangement as set forth in claim 10 characterised in that a bar portion of the bar element (60) is of such dimensions that in an assembled condition it projects through the first opening and/or the longitudinal slots and non-rotatably fixes the bar element when under a tensile loading relative to the support portion (28).

12. (currently amended) An arrangement as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the support portion (28) is adapted for jointly cooperating with at least one fork element as set forth in claim 10 and at least one bar element as set forth in claim 12.

13. (currently amended) An arrangement as set forth in claim 8 characterised in that the fork element and/or the bar element has at the bottom a female screwthread (146).

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14. (currently amended) A coupling element, in particular for use in a supporting and fastening arrangement as set forth in claim 1 characterised by a yoke-shaped pivot portion which is adapted for connection to a counterpart coupling portion and which has a recess (138) which is formed parallel to a pivot axis of the pivot portion and which is in opposite relationship to the counterpart coupling portion and which is such that the coupling element can be fixed thereby to a mast, pipe or the like support in a direction extending parallel to the pivot axis, wherein formed adjacent to the pivot portion is at least one fastening portion (140) which is to be attached in one-piece relationship, for such a fixing.

15. (new) An arrangement as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the support portion is adapted for jointly cooperating with at least one bar element.